

The Holiness of Community: Celebrating 25 Years –

(The following is a transcript of Rabbi Camille Shira Angel's drash at CSZ's 25th Anniversary celebration on Friday, May 31.)

Shabbat Shalom! I love our congregation! I love being the rabbi of this congregation! Oh sure, you're thinking, that's easy to say when I've just returned from being on family leave. But being off duty has given me the distance and perspective to honestly reflect on the challenges and rewards of my rabbinate here at Sha'ar Zahav. And, I'm happy to report, Karen and I (and Lilah Rose) have recently accepted your invitation to continue on for at least five years more. So, here's to our future together! May our partnership grow in substance and in strength, so that we may continue to serve God, *ivdu et haShem b simcha...* with joy.

Tonight and over the course of this weekend, we will pause to take stock of the shape of our congregation's life. In our year-long celebration of this first quarter century, we will treat ourselves to the pleasure of knowing that we have opened wide our golden gates, creating an exciting, vibrant Jewish life for LGBT Jews, here in the Bay Area. To some, 25 years may seem hardly significant when set against the backdrop of a 4000-year-old history. Yet, a closer look reveals the fact that, in a mere 25 years, we've been able to interrupt that course of Jewish history and reclaim a Judaism that includes all of us.

Make no mistake, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jews, here at Sha'ar Zahav and in our sibling congregations, have radically transformed Judaism. We did not need to have Sandi Dubowski's ground-breaking documentary, *Trembling Before G-d*, to remember how marginalized and disenfranchised LGBT Jews were and remain in places all over this country and around the world.

When Sha'ar Zahav was taking its first steps *bamidbar*, into the wild places, the Hebrew Union College and the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the two most progressive arms of religious Jewry) were busy behind the scenes, weeding out the queers from leadership positions, arguing stridently against our wholesomeness, our morality, our capability of modeling the virtues of Jewish life. In the same year that we began, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations was adopting its first resolution "opposing discrimination against homosexuals in areas of opportunity including housing

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Our First Congregational Advance

More than 100 members of CSZ participated in the first Congregational Advance, which was held at the synagogue during the weekend of June 1 and 2. The Advance was built around the theme of "Celebrating our Past and Imagining our Future." Throughout the weekend, members had the opportunity to get to know each other better in small group discussions, to learn about our history, to pray and study together, and to share their hopes and concerns about our future (and, of course, to schmooze and share some wonderful meals together).

On Saturday, one of the highlights was a presentation by five past and present CSZ presidents who recounted the 25-year history of the congregation. Paul Cohen, Irene Ogus, Allan Gold, Tiela Chalmers and Lisa Katz summarized the joys, struggles, transitions, accomplishments and sorrows that

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Executive Director — Search Process

by Jeff Sherman, Personnel Committee Chair

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting or the Congregational Advance know that we are in the process of hiring an executive director. The person in this position will perform many of the same functions as our previous administrator, but will have

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High Holidays 5763 —

Although it is only July, we are already looking forward to, and planning for, the coming High Holidays. As in the past several years, we will be holding the majority of our High Holiday services at Herbst Theater.

We encourage members of the congregation to participate in our services. If you would like to chant from the Torah, sing with the Ensemble, lead a reading or sound the shofar, please let us know by filling out the participation form and returning it to the office. A schedule for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur appears in the box below.

A High Holiday packet containing information on services, tickets, children's programming, childcare and classes will be mailed to all CSZ members in mid-summer. Non-CSZ members who would like to join us for the holidays are invited to contact the

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Friday, September 6
Erev Rosh Hashanah

Saturday, September 7
First Day Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 8
Second Day Rosh Hashanah

Sunday, September 15
Kol Nidre

Monday, September 16
Yom Kippur

and employment; encouraging legislation which decriminalize homosexual acts between consenting adults."

It took another ten years before there was anything adopted that would support the inclusion of lesbian and gay Jews, encouraging the mainstream to let us share and participate in prayer and leadership. An out, proud, lesbian Rabbi? Why, it was not until after I'd been admitted to the College-Institute that policies were in place to protect me as I made my cautious way and began to integrate my spirituality with my sexuality.

Who could have imagined, 25 years ago, a Jewish wedding between two women or two men? Never mind two trannies...

Since 1977, there have been more than 20 resolutions adopted by the Reform Movement, a tribute to the members of our congregation, who once were on the fringe. I love the way Rabbi Lisa Edwards describes us, "previous outsiders, feminists of all genders, radical thinkers of all sorts, even some non-Jews: helping to make Judaism relevant and compelling here and for others."

Of course these efforts were taking place in other parts of the country as well. But it is in our own backyard that we find the leader among leaders, our own Rabbi Yoel Kahn. There is no amount of appreciation too great for Yoel's brave, pioneering efforts; his brilliant and eloquent, impassioned pleas have truly championed our cause. When the history books of Judaism are written 25 years from now, chapters will be dedicated to this man's vision and effort. How fortunate we are that Yoel and Dan and Adam remain an active part of our congregational life.

I feel lucky to stand on the shoulders of all my predecessors, Rabbis Bennett, Kahn and Litman, and our interims, Bergadine and Richman. We have had tremendous rabbinic leadership. Yet in truth, the secret of Sha'ar Zahav's success lies in its inherent approach to sharing responsibility and empowering the membership to lead.

So, we find is the case in this week's Torah portion, *Be ha alotecha*. Moses, whose spirit is wilting from all the *geshrying* [moaning] the people have been doing, recognizes his own limits and pleads with

God for additional assistance. God accedes to Moses' request, instructing him to "gather for Me seventy of Israel's sages ... and I will draw upon the spirit that is on you and put it on them: They will share the burden of the people with you."

When Moses hears that two of the elders, Eldad and Meded, are calling attention to themselves with their prophecy, rather than being jealous, Moses is delighted! He wishes that more people were able to serve as prophets, teachers - messengers from on high. This is a remarkable example of the democratization of religious leadership, which evolved into even greater heights over the course of Jewish history. In fact, it has become a fundamental principle underlying ritual life, if not all of what thrives at Sha'ar Zahav.

Through the authorization of the seventy elders, God establishes diversity as a Jewish virtue. By providing the leadership with dissenting opinions, God assures that every possible view will be articulated and considered. Just imagine a Va'ad meeting with seventy people all trying to reach a consensus. By the way, this becomes the prototype of the Second Temple and the Rabbinic Sanhedrin.

Diversity is not a treat. Instead, the Torah presents diverse viewpoints as a source of richness, stability and vitality for Judaism; indeed this pluralism of viewpoint is at the very center of Jewish thinking, from the time of Moses to our own day.

Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, founder of modern Orthodoxy, comments: "In Judaism, there is no monopoly of spiritual leadership. Spiritual power is granted by God. It is not the exclusive privilege of any particular office or status."

Judaism is no esoteric religion with mysteries revealed only to the privileged few. The synagogue and the school are community institutions, encouraging the active participation of every Jew counted in the ranks of those who share the vision.

"There are few congregations in the world today where you can have the kind of conversations about Torah, about God, about Judaism, about prayer, about ourselves, that we have at Sha'ar Zahav. There are few places where Judaism is examined though so many different

lenses, and where everyone's lens is equally valued. There are few places where diversity is a mainstay, is the mainstream. And Sha'ar Zahav and our sibling congregations are among those places. Here, at Sha'ar Zahav, we've barely begun, I think, to break open the possibilities Judaism holds for us. Barely begun, but hardly ready to stop."

[Rabbi Lisa Edwards]

We are on the cutting edge, engaged in an enterprise that is at once traditional and radical. For the first time in all of Jewish history, we are integrating our unique, queer sensibilities and perspective with our Jewish values, instilling in the next generation a religious permission slip to be true unto ourselves, an appreciation for diversity, an awareness of how gayness is good for the Jews and the myriad models with which to identify.

By developing our own understandings, our own liturgical innovations and translations, by engaging other Jews in study, discussion and growth, we cultivate the resources of a richer Judaism. In so doing, we affirm the traditional Jewish characteristic of unity without uniformity, a goal established so long ago in the wilderness of Sinai.

The account of the Israelites' time in the wilderness readily serves as a guide for our journey. What the Israelites learned along the way is not unlike what we learn as we grow in holy community. Just as the Israelites were challenged to grow into a grounded people able to face adversity, so too we have been given many occasions in our developmental years to face trials and difficult experiences that both tested and strengthened us.

"God did not lead us by the nearer way ... but roundabout, by the way of wilderness/pillars of fire and cloud marking night and day/to the edge of the flood-tide/uncrossable and vast." [Dan Bellm, Resident Poet] Struggling with impatience, the Israelites had to accept that there is no easy, quick, straight shot to the Promised Land. Change does not come easily.

Like all congregations, Sha'ar Zahav has zigzagged its way, setting up camp in various locations, continually undergoing transitions in our organizational, programmatic and leadership dimensions.

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Executive Director

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broader responsibilities as well. You may wonder why we are moving forward with this new position at this time. The number of programs, services, classes, special events and activities at CSZ are rapidly maximizing our current capabilities, and we don't see this trend changing. In addition, volunteers and lay leaders don't have enough free time to accomplish all that needs to be done. As a 25-year-old congregation, CSZ is complex and often challenging to manage. Our staff has performed a tremendous job, and now we are ready to take the next step - to add an executive director to the team.

The ED will be responsible for day-to-day synagogue administration and support, and will play a significant role in the congregation's planning and development activities. The ED will work hand-in-hand with the staff, the rabbi, lay leadership and congregants in all areas, from finances, volunteers and new members, to building maintenance and project and staff supervision. All applicants will be given a clear understanding of CSZ minhag (tradition) and the important role our lay leaders and congregants play in the operation of CSZ, and that the desire is to enhance this relationship. In the same way that our rabbi works with the Ritual Committee, an ED will work together with the Finance, Dues, Buildings and Grounds and other committees where lay leaders will continue to play an active role in the administration of our congregation. An executive director will be charged with making sure "all the parts of CSZ work together."

We will try to fill this position as quickly as possible. If the right candidate is not found by the High Holidays, however, we will also be looking for an interim ED.

The job announcement will be posted soon, and the interview committee is in formation. We will be soliciting questions for the interview process, so if you'd like to submit a question, please send it to me at jbsher@aol.com.

A Journey of Transformation

CSZ's program of choosing Judaism can best be described as a journey of transformation. Individuals start the process from many different spiritual places and beliefs and pursue a guided course of study that includes both group and independent learning. Regular synagogue attendance and participation in the congregation's programming introduces participants to both Torah and the Jewish people.

Our program, under the supervision and leadership of Rabbi Angel, was developed by Rabbi Yoel Kahn. It includes the traditional final steps of a Beit Din and immersion in the mikvah. Most people spend a minimum of one liturgical year on their journey. For the past seven years, Paul Cohen, an Outreach Fellow certified by the UAHC/CCAR, has been the facilitator. Sue Bojdak, our Director of Children's and Family Education, is in the process of receiving her certification and serves as facilitator.

We offer participation in the conversion program to members and their partners. The first step is a meeting with Rabbi Angel, who determines whether an applicant is ready for the formal journey to begin. Introduction to Judaism classes, offered through UAHC congregations by Lehrhaus Judaica, are an informative method of learning many concepts, asking questions and hearing the questions of others.

Resource materials, including videotapes, magazine articles and books, are available in our congregational library and at the Bureau of Jewish Education Jewish Community Library (639 14th Avenue at Balboa, San Francisco). Librarians Jonathan Schwartz, Susan Jacobs and Howard Freedman help our members to find meaningful resources.

Earlier this year, Rabbi Angel, Paul Cohen and Sue Bojdak convened a new havurah to plan outreach activities for interfaith families. Shabbat and holiday programs, many of which have been designed by other UAHC congregations, are being reviewed for use at CSZ. The group, co-chaired by Mark

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Learn High Holiday Trope Just in Time for 5763

Join CSZ member Laura Lowe for a High Holiday trope class. The class dates are Mondays, July 8, 15 and 22, 7 - 8:30 pm. Some familiarity with Torah trope is necessary. For more information or to register, please phone Laura Lowe (415/247-2409) or Gabby Volodarsky (415/861-6932). Cost for members is \$18, cost for non-members is \$36.

Queer Jews Book Reading and Discussion

Please join Sha'ar Zahav member and teacher Caryn Aviv, former Sha'ar Zahav Director of Education David Shneer, and other Bay Area contributors for a celebration and reading of their newly published anthology *Queer Jews* on August 29 at 7 pm at CSZ. *Queer Jews* includes over 20 essays from North America and Israel about the experiences, stories and complexities of LGBT Jews. Rebecca Alpert, author of *Like Bread on the Seder Plate: Jewish Lesbians and the Transformation of Tradition*, said about *Queer Jews*, "This is a first-rate collection of essays that will permanently alter all perceptions about queer Jews. These vivid, cutting edge tales of the lives of transgender, bisexual, gay and lesbian Jews delight and challenge. If this book reflects the state of queer thinking in Jewish life, we may indeed count our blessings." Books will be available for sale at the reading, and a portion of the sales will be donated to Kadimah. Snacks will be provided. Cost is \$5 for CSZ members, \$8 for non-members. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Why Is This New Member Different From All Others? *by Marc Wernick*



Returning member Danny Givertz works to help people connect with their souls and with their community. The spirituality, sense of community and professional endeavors he engages in today reflect his childhood, college and early adult experiences.

Danny was raised in Portland, ME as part of a close Jewish community. "For our family, being a person living in Maine and being a Jew were totally interwoven. We were part of a web of Jewish families. My second homes were the synagogue and the homes of Jewish friends. I went to Jewish day camp, just down the lake from my family's summer home. Everything was a stone's throw away," remarks Danny about his early childhood memories. As a youth, he spent a summer in Israel, was active in Kadimah and served as USY president in high school.

Danny connected spiritually to Judaism through music. As a child, Danny sang and conducted the synagogue youth choir. That collective group experience of worship and meditation has stayed with him as an anchor of his spirituality. His family was musically oriented. Danny has fond memories of sitting around after meals with his extended family, playing folk songs and harmonizing.

At Brown University, Danny's love for music evolved into a passion for theater, dance and performance art. Then he began directing and choreographing modern dance. At the same time that Danny was exploring the arts, he stumbled into the Religious Studies department where we was intrigued by other world religions. "My Jewish affiliation in college was pretty limited to cultural Judaism. I was spending time exploring my new gay identity. My studies dovetailed with the personal transformation of coming out as a gay artist in late adolescence, which expanded my ideas about the individual, community, the ego and the psyche," Danny explains.

In 1988, Danny moved to San Francisco and involved himself with the arts via solo modern dance performance and working with the On-Site Dance Com-

pany and choreographers Keith Hennessy and Jon Weaver. He was also involved with HIV volunteer work, focusing on street-based outreach and activism with STOP AIDS and ACT-UP. "I was proud of being gay and felt it was important to be part of the wave of sex-positive educators at a time when people were deeply conflicted about sexual-ity vis-a-vis the AIDS epidemic."

Danny would attend CSZ from time to time on Friday nights when the synagogue was on Danvers St. "CSZ was a wonderful place to enter Shabbat as a gay person. It was really rich being at CSZ in the Castro and getting to express both my gayness and Jewishness in a unique wholeness," Danny notes.

Danny left San Francisco in 1994 to pursue a graduate degree in social work but returned to the city and to CSZ in 1996. "I began to be much more active than just attending services and schmoozing at oneg. I started co-leading services. Yet, I drifted away from CSZ as I became deeply involved in a queer havurah where my community and spiritual needs were being met better than at CSZ," explains Danny. He returned to CSZ in 2002 because he now sees CSZ as more than just a place for religious services. He comments, "A number of my friends, social community and work colleagues are part of CSZ, and CSZ has become more of a community center. I am very excited about the number of lectures, the classes and social programming which were not here years ago." Danny feels it is important for a Jew to affiliate with a synagogue, to have a

home one can claim as a spiritual home. Professionally, Danny has spent more than a decade providing community-based social work. He has been deeply involved as a professional in the LGBT community, in HIV/AIDS work and in youth and family work. Danny is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and maintains a part-time psychotherapy practice in San Francisco.

He currently serves as the Director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance of the Jewish Community Federation. The Alliance's mission is both to reach out and engage the LGBT community through programs/events and to fundraise in the community for the Federation. Through the Alliance, Danny hopes to offer LGBT Jews new opportunities to express their Jewishness through participation in novel programs, volunteerism, leadership and tzedekah.

Danny is also very much a family type of guy. He is the involved uncle of five nieces and nephews, traveling often to see them. He and his boyfriend David, a transplanted NY Jew, are building their nest in the Castro. Danny hopes to become more involved with music, both at the synagogue and with the community.

Please join me in welcoming Danny to our community.

To learn more about getting involved with the Jewish Community Federation's Gay and Lesbian Alliance, contact Danny at 415/369-2871 or DannyG@sfjcf.org. Also, check out the website at www.JewishFed.org.

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Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

July/August 2002, Volume 25,
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May Va'ad Minutes

Lisa Katz named Gail Ludwig to the position of Interim Treasurer, following James Carlson's resignation. After expressing our deep and heartfelt appreciation for James's service - including his countless hours spent changing our computer system and switching us to accrual accounting - we approved entering into a contract with James to assist in our office transition. (Please refer to Lisa Katz's column in the June *JGF* for more on this subject.)

Arthur Slepian welcomed two incoming members of the Long-Range Planning Committee, Rose Katz and Nancy Kates, and thanked the two outgoing members, Lyssa Friedman and Tiela Chalmers.

Director of Education Sue Bojdak's Educator's report described the conclusion of a series of parenting programs we co-sponsored with JFCS. Sue is negotiating with Mission Dolores for needed classroom space, and she is hiring new teachers. The East Bay class is still being evaluated by the families involved.

Gail Ludwig delivered the Treasurer's Report. Lisa Katz noted that the organizers of the Art Shabbaton deserve tremendous credit for a successful event.

This year's Congregational Meeting will conclude with recognition for all of CSZ's many volunteers, plus special acknowledgment of 10 special volunteers. Thanks to Melanie Kushnir for her work on this.

Thanks to José Luis Moskovich for his donation of a baby grand piano, to Randy Weiss for arranging its delivery to CSZ and to the people making the delivery possible.

Discussion of congregational policy on Israel will be coming up at some point in the future.

Jeff Sherman reported that Interim Program Director Melanie Kushnir will be away for one month. She will meet with the rabbi about events occurring during that time, to make sure they're covered.

Outgoing Administrator Lea Salem submitted her final Administrator's Report. Lea's responsibilities have been distributed among our staff; please be patient with them. PG&E will be excavating to place our utilities underground beginning in July. This may involve some unspecified (unbudgeted) expense for us. Lea closed with appreciation to our community.

Gift Shop Expands Offerings *by Jeffrey Lilly*

The Gift Shop staff are pleased to announce that we recently ordered a new selection of books, mezzuzot, Kiddush cups and attractively colored glass dreidels to add to our inventory. We hope you will stop by our cabinets on the first floor to take a look.

The books represent a new dimension for the Gift Shop. Before ordering them, we asked Rabbi Angel for a list of recommended selections. From her list, we ordered books such as *The Art of Cantillation*, *The Jewish Home*, *What Happens After I Die?* and *Your Jewish Lexicon*. We also bought the *Plaut Torah Commentary*, the *Plaut and Stern Haftarah Commentary* and *Learn Hebrew Today* on CD rom.

We also want to remind you that, if you are thinking of purchasing a tallit for High Holidays, you should check out our selections or our catalogs before you do.

We are open on Fridays from 7:30 pm to 8 pm; we close before services begin. If you would like to buy something during the workweek, contact James Carlson and come by at an arranged time. We look forward to seeing you.

July 2002-Tammuz/Av 5762

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
		1 21 Tammuz	• 7 pm - Beit Midrash	2 22 Tammuz		3	
7 27 Tammuz		8 28 Tammuz	• 6:45 pm - Dues Committee • 7 pm - Trope Class	9 29 Tammuz		10 Rosh Chodesh	• 6:30 pm - Building Meeting
14 5 Av		15 6 Av	• 7 pm Keshet Committee • 7 pm - Trope Class	16 7 Av		17	
21 12 Av		22 13 Av	• 7 pm - Trope Class	23 14 Av		24	
28 19 Av		29 20 Av		30 21 Av		31	

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need

תמוז/אב התשס"ב

AY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SHABBAT
23 Tammuz	4 24 Tammuz	5 25 Tammuz	6 Shabbat Mattot-Masei (Num 30:2-36:13, 28:19-15) 26 Tammuz
	OFFICE CLOSED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Jonathan Funk and Steve Weitz</i> • 8:17 pm - Candle Lighting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Andy Fyne</i>
1 Av	11 Tu B'Av 2 Av	12 3 Av	13 Shabbat Hazon (Deut 1:1-3:22) 4 Av
nd Grounds	• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:15 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Alan Gordon</i>
8 Av	18 Tisha B'Av 9 Av	19 10 Av	20 Shabbat Nahamu (Deut 3:23-7:11) 11 Av
	• 6:30 pm - Israel Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:11 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and Lyssa Friedman</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Rabbi Camille Shira Angel</i>
15 Av	25 16 Av	26 17 Av	27 Shabbat Ekev (Deut 7:12-11:25) 18 Av
	• 6:30 pm - Ritual Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:06 pm - Candle Lighting • 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by <i>Larry Wexler</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 am - Torah Study • 10 am - Shabbat Services led by <i>Ron Edelman</i>
22 Av			

NO East Bay Services

The East Bay Havurah will be taking a summer break.
We'll get together again after the High Holidays.
So, talk amongst yourselves!
We'll see you in the fall.

dated information.

Josh Levy Becomes Bar Mitzvah



Josh Levy, who will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah on August 24, had a head start when he attended his first Kadimah class after his family joined CSZ,

because his parents speak Hebrew. After looking for "a synagogue that fit us," they joined in 1998, attracted by the strong Jewish family and community activities, and the progressive mindset mixed with the respect for traditional aspects of our religion.

Josh presently attends Rooftop School in San Francisco, where he is in the seventh grade. His favorite subjects are math and science, but he also likes writing, especially stories. Outside of class work and preparation for his Bar Mitzvah, he has many additional interests including chess, karate and soccer; he also likes to watch "baseball and all sports."

Josh and his family appreciate that Sue Bojdak and all of his teachers have been supportive of his Jewish growth and learning. Josh adds that he is especially grateful to his mom, Ron Edelman and Phyllis Mintzer for helping in his preparation. He looks forward to sharing what he has learned at CSZ with his extended family, and especially with his grandfather who is coming from Israel to read from the Torah with us at CSZ. A heartfelt Mazel Tov to Josh and his family.

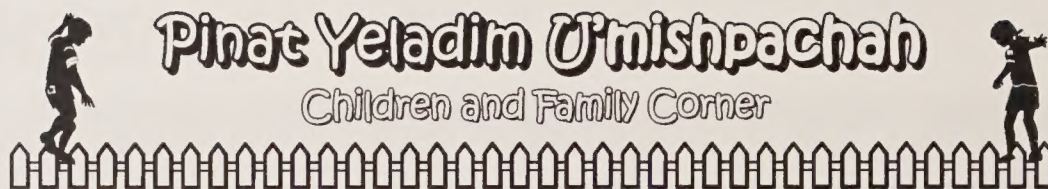
High Holidays

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office after August 6 to request a High Holiday packet.

High Holiday services at CSZ also require an enormous amount of volunteer effort in the areas of logistics, greeting, ushering, oneg, break fast, children's programming and discussion groups. Please consider beginning the new year with the mitzvah of helping in one of these areas. If you can offer an hour or two, contact James Carlson in the CSZ office:

office@shaarzahav.org
or 415/861-6932.



Kadimah Registration

Kadimah registration packets should already have made it to your mailbox. If you have not received Kadimah registration materials for the 2002-03/5763 school year, please contact the Education Office. Children are eligible to begin Kadimah at age five, welcome to join Kadimah at any time, and required to attend Kadimah for at least three years in order to complete their b'nei mitzvah training. If you have questions about Kadimah or about your child's Kadimah participation, please contact Sue in the Education Office. We look forward to having you as a part of this dynamic learning community in the new year 5763.

High Holidays Are Around the Corner and So Is High Holiday Children's Programming!

The first day of Rosh Hashanah is Saturday, September 7 and Yom Kippur is Monday, September 16. The High Holiday Childcare and Children's Programming materials will be coming to you in August. Please help us help you by registering early for holiday programs.

Are You a Part of the Kadimah Summer Read-a-thon?

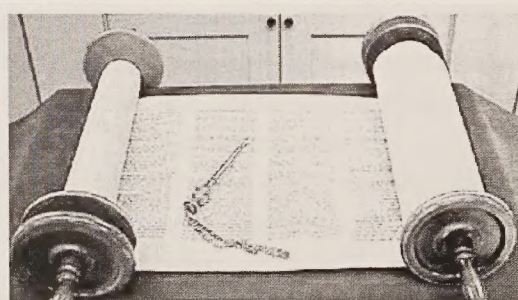
Have you gotten your sponsors and already read an armload of great Jewish books? Have you been to the Jewish Community Library to check out their Children's Library? Don't delay. Summer is well underway and this is your chance to better your mind and better Kadimah at the same time. If you've lost your sponsor sheet, need a book list or have a book to recommend, please contact the Education Office. If you are not a Kadimah student, but are looking for one to sponsor, the education office will be happy to match you with a participating student. Everyone can be a part of this educational community effort.

Baby/Tot Summer Gatherings

It's time for wee ones to frolic in the sun. If you are interested in attending or hosting a Shabbat dinner or picnic this summer for baby and/or tot families, please contact Sue in the Education Office. Stay tuned for the return of the monthly Tot Shabbat, a revitalized Baby Havurah, and more Family Dinners this fall.

Contact Sue Bojdak, Director of Family and Children's Education
(415/861-6932 x 302 or educator@shaarzahav.org)
for more information about any of these programs or to RSVP.

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Many beautiful new items just arrived!

From the Israel Committee

by co-chairs Miki Goralsky and Steve Mazer

This month we extend a heartfelt "todah rabah" (thank you) to Ron Lezell, who has stepped down as co-chair of the Israel Committee. For nearly 20 years, Ron has spearheaded Israel-related support, education and programming at Sha'ar Zahav, sometimes as a lone voice, recently as part of an ever-growing chorus. This year, his efforts resulted in a dynamic programming campaign that brought Israeli intellectuals, politicians and entertainers - representing the entire spectrum of political and social views - into our community. We are grateful to Ron for his vision, passion and leadership, and we are happy to report that he will remain an active member of the Israel Committee.

By the time you read this, at least four CSZ members will be in Israel for Pride celebrations and the World Congress of LGBT Jewish Organizations, being held from June 27 - July 7. Stay tuned for a report on this fun-filled and important event.

Felicia Epstein, Sheh'asani Isha
(Created Me a Woman).

Thursday, August 15, 7 pm

As a result of her evolving role in society in general, the Modern Orthodox Jewish woman is now forcing a revolution within Orthodoxy and changing her role within the religious framework. Yakov Friedland's original documentary, *Created Me a Woman*, examines the various

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Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

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Looking for a social action event you can bring your kids to? Has AIDS touched your life in some way and you want a way to support others who have been touched by AIDS? Join us for a fun clean-up day at the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. CSZ is joining Jewish Family and Children's Services (JFCS) on August 4 for this special social action event, which will involve clean up, weeding and fun. For more details and to sign up, please contact AJ Turpen (AJsparkles@mac.com).

Thanks for Shabbat Lea

Thank you to everyone who contributed, in so many different ways, to the success of the May 10 event honoring Lea Salem: Lisa Katz and the entire Va'ad; Rabbis Camille Shira Angel, Dorothy Richman and Yoel Kahn; CSZ staffers Sean Holcombe, Gabby Volodarsky, Melanie Kushnir, Max McBride, Nol Simonse, Megan Saperstein and Sue Bojdak; the members listed below; and anyone we forgot to mention!

Stefan Bain, Jay Baskin, Al Baum, Michael Bettinger, Randy Ellen Blaustein, James Carlson, Michael Chertok, Adin Eichler, Steve Elman, Dev Felder Noily, Jeff Forman, Roslyn Fuerman, Joel Ginsberg, Sarita Groisser, Andréa Guerra, Joe Hample, Lawrence Helman, Brian Jersky, Leslie Kane and Manny Fishman, Rose Katz, the Kim Michels family, Mike Klayman, Anna Lichtenberg, Ron Lezell, Marc Lipschutz, David Maltz, Steve Mazer, Phyllis and George Mintzer, Jeanette Nichols, Felicia Park-Rogers, Miranda Petrillo, Steve Polsky and Mark Oliver, Nathan Robinson, Karen Schiller, Ed Schultz, Jeff Sherman, David Stein, Lonnie Weiss, Randy Weiss, Marc Wernick and Larry Wexler.

Congregational Advance *continued from page 1*

have marked our history. Later in the day, participants met in small groups and discussed their visions for the future of CSZ. Saturday evening was marked by a lovely Havdalah service led by Michael Chertok and Rose Katz followed by Israeli dancing taught by Nathan Robinson, and a fabulous dessert bar in honor of CSZ's birthday.

On Sunday, participants had a chance to hear more about the work of our Long-Range Planning Committee, and to have some direct input into that process. Claudia Bernard and Arthur Slepian, co-chairs of the LRP Committee, gave the group an update of the work the committee has done so far, and what the process will look like going forward. Participants then spent most of Sunday in small groups discussing hopes and concerns about some of the most challenging issues facing the congregation as we think about the possibilities for future growth and change.

In sum, the weekend provided participants with a chance to gain some new perspectives about CSZ, and to be part of a dialogue that will help to shape our future.

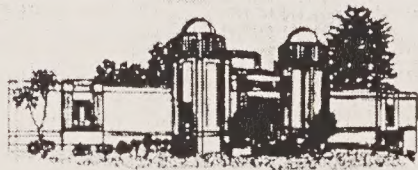
Transformation

continued from page 3

Gershman and Daphne Stuart, sponsored a hamentaschen baking class for people in the conversion program and invited Jerry Rosenstein to share his experiences as a Holocaust survivor.

The journey of transformation is a serious course of study and reflection. We believe it takes a minimum of one year to fully appreciate the Jewish way of life and its rituals and commandments. Many say that completion of the journey is just the beginning of a lifetime of study and practice as a Jew.

In a time when we are all Jews by choice, individuals who join our community and assume the responsibilities of an adult Jew enrich us with their commitment, faith and strength.



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*Members wishing to contact any
Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain her or his
number from the synagogue office.*

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman
and Joss Eldredge
Archives, open
Baby Havurah, open
Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim, open
Book Group, Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa
Bylaws, Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open
Dues, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe
East Bay Havurah, Ida Kuluk
and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund, David Stein
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Social Action, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko,
Susan Lubeck
Singles Havurah, Marc Wernick
- mhwernick@aol.com
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah, open
UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman
Web and I.T., Geoff Benjamin
Women's Havurah, open

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Painfully divisive at times, these transitions have been opportunities for spiritual growth, deepening community and communal transformation.

In the wilderness, God gave us clear signs to keep us on track; pillars of fire and cloud signaling us to make and break camp, when to stand still and when to advance forward. What have been the pillars of fire and cloud accompanying us?

Infinite are the ways in which we have burned bright for each other, shown up for one another. In joy and in sorrow, we have been each other's warmth and comfort.

Our fire has been the unique gifts of our congregation, both individually and communally. Here our deepest passions and energies serve as the fuel which ignites the *neshama*, the soul of this *kehilla*.

Our pillars have been many. In gratitude, we turn to all our past presidents, many if not most of whom are here tonight, our ritual chairs and service leaders, our Va'ad members and committee chairs. And all the *Jewish Gaily Forward* newsletter editors and staff; our fundraisers and philanthropists, our shleppers and doers. Our tireless and devoted administrator, Lea Salem, to all who participate in adult education and children's education. To all those who spent and spend so many long hours listening and working and writing, creating and recording your vision for all of us. Tonight, too, we remember those pillars, whose spirits dwell among us; those whose love for and dedication to this community continues to inspire us and light our way.

Twenty-five years ago, the AIDS epidemic wasn't yet a part of our consciousness; too many taken from this earthly plane too soon. Our friends, our lovers, our neighbors; our sweethearts and fellow sojourners; those we schmoozed with every Shabbes and those we admired from afar twice a year. They were the men and women of our congregation, too many to name but whose memories continue to keep our hearts aflame. Surely they are proud of us. *Zichronam l vrocha*. May they continue to bless us as we honor their legacy.

You are the fire. It is your legacy which has inspired me and all newcomers to see the Divine here. I love listening to the stories from our early years. I want to

encourage all of us to tell more of these stories - the tales and travails of what brought us here in the first place and what's kept us here. Let us notice and describe to each other what we see and how we've been moved. This sort of sharing, this sort of community building is a way, I think, of loving God, of walking in God's ways. It's a way for each one of us to look at our choices and to "choose life that we may continue to live, *u vcharta l chaim*." [Deuteronomy 30:19]

I have been so encouraged by the seriousness with which people follow through on their commitments. Okay, so sometimes the people who are signed up for oneg duty blow it off, but that's a rarity. Much more common are the times when so many of you cheerfully show up twice, three times, four times in one week to fulfill your various communal tasks. Of course we have to be careful not to let our volunteers over-extend themselves. Like Moshe, we would do well to take a lesson - for even sacred synagogue work can burn us out!

I know I'm preaching to the choir, for the most part, but if any of you here have not stepped up and taken your turn recently, know that we need you! We depend on you to keep us fresh. Please, avail yourself of some substantive responsibility. Lead a service. Teach some Torah. Set up a singles chavurah. Help us offset our deficit. Help us plant seeds for the future. Share with us your talents and your trades.

You are the fire.

As for the pillar of cloud, this combination of water and air symbolizes the mystery and potential that awaits us. As the Psalmist wrote in praise of the vast heavens with their infinite grandeur, "When I behold Thy heaven, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars which Thou hast established; What are we, that Thou are mindful of us? Yet, You have made us but little lower than the angels, and have crowned us with glory and honor." [Psalm 8:6] The clouds call us to imagine and create new life: they remind us of the need to be a continual moving stream.

A friend recently attended her college graduation, where the president of the university made a brief speech before awarding the diplomas to the graduates. He began by telling about one of the

many fundraising dinners he had attended for alumni who had contributed generously to the school.

On this particular evening, a woman approached him and said that she owed her success to a piece of advice that he had given to her at her graduation. The president felt flattered to think that he had played such a significant role in this person's life, but he didn't remember her or his speech. "What did I say?" he asked candidly.

She responded that when she ascended the stage to receive her diploma, he shook her hand, cocked his head in the direction of the opposite staircase, and said, "Keep moving."

I thought of this story in connection with our 25th anniversary. Having arrived at this milestone, having fulfilled so many of the goals in our long range plan, we may think we have arrived. But that's neither Jewish nor gay. We have a vision and a mission that is far from complete. And while "it is not incumbent upon us to complete the task, *lo aleikha ham lakha ligmor, v lo ata ben horin l hibatel mimena* - neither are we free to desist from it."

[*Pirkei Avot*]

Tomorrow and Sunday and on other occasions in the near future, you will be asked to articulate your hopes and ambitions as to how we advance. For, we have to keep moving! We are not yet at the Promised Land. "The longest journey starts with a single step." Dayeinu is the Jewish way. Let us "dream big and enjoy every step."

But first, on this Sabbath, our day of rest, let us pause, and take delight in all that we've become, in all that we've achieved.

The Torah instructs us, this week, to have two silver trumpets made to help summon the community and set them in motion. "When both are blown in long blasts, the whole community shall assemble. And when you sound the short blasts it will signal a move forward." God tells Moshe, "On your joyous occasions, your fixed festivals and your new moons, you shall sound the trumpets . . . They shall be a reminder of you before your God: I Adonai, am your God." [Numbers 10:10]

So may it be before us on this most joyous occasion, *ken y hi ratzon*.

Contributions

Adult Education Fund

Lonnie Weiss
-in honor of Ron Edelman.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Nancy Livingston, Fred Levin and Irma Levin
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.

Batya Kalis
-in honor of Jonathan Comisar.

Children's Education Fund

Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Schuster
-in honor of the naming of Lilah Rose Angel.
-in memory of Naomi Eden.

Prudence Carter and Marianne Balin
-in honor of Ron Edelman and Phyllis Mintzer.
-in honor of Nora Downs' becoming bat mitzvah.
-in honor of Jen Levinson and Sue Bojdak.

Lonnie Weiss
-in honor of Rami Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of Chava Orli Novogrodsky-Godt.

Marc Wernick
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-in memory Reuven Closter.

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-in honor of Ora Prochovnick.

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-in memory of Rose Jacobstein.

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Steve Weiner
-in memory of Judith Elman.
-in honor of CSZ's 25th anniversary.
-in honor of Lilah Rose's naming.
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.

Harold Podgur
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Allan Berenstein
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-in memory of Bob Mackey.
-in memory of Duff Kreitzberg.
-in memory of Mirtha Beal.
-in memory of Perel Berenstein.

Ellen Cohen and Miki Goralsky
-in memory of Judith Elman.

General Fund

Ron Lezell
-in honor of James Carlson.
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.

Eve Meyer
-in memory of Hilda Meyer.

Richard McKenzie
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.

Susan Tubbesing
-in memory of Jacob Bezman.

Frances Sturtevant
-in memory of Fran Jimenez.

Rod Leslie
-in memory of Solomon Leslie.

Nina Raff
-in memory of Lillian Raff.

Lenny Girvitz
-in memory of Stanley Meyerson.

Lisa Katz
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.
-in honor of Ann Bauman and Kelly Thieman's 10th anniversary.
-in honor of Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart's anniversary.
-in honor of Susan Leff and Brad Post's wedding.
-in honor of the birth of Jordan Eliana Scott-Weiner.
-in honor of Erin Powers and Richard Gruschka, on the naming of their son, Ryan.
-in honor of Carol Barnett and Tamara Abrams' wedding.
-in honor of the birth of Asa Eli Klein.

Alice and Les Rubenfell
-in honor of Susan Leff and Brad Post's wedding.

George and Phyllis Mintzer
-in memory of Rose Mintzer.

Alison Post, Jeff Gould, Maia and Zev
-in honor of Brad Post and Susan Leff's wedding.

Robert and Lota Post
-in honor of Brad Post and Susan Leff's wedding.

James Carlson
-in honor of Jerry Rosenstein's 75th birthday.
-in honor of Julius and Pearl Funk's 60th anniversary.
-in honor of Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart's anniversary.

Ami Zusman
-in honor of Lea Salem.

Karen Schiller
-in honor of Lea Salem.
-in honor of Rami Kripke-Ludwig.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold
-in honor of Jonathan's parents' 60th anniversary.

Lonnie Weiss
-in memory of Judith Elman.
-in memory of Eli Weinstein.
-in memory of Warren Fuerman.
-in memory Naomi Eden.

Julia Bloomfield.

Rob Tat
-in memory of Judith Elman.

Ruthy Talansky and Maureen Bennett
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Roland Stern
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Ida Kuluk
-in honor of Lea Salem.

David Wasserman
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Neil Hart
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-in memory of Thomas Giannini.

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A Joyce Gruschka.

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-in memory of Al Ferrara.

Avraham Giannini
-in memory of Eli Weinstein.

Abigail Wizansky.

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-in honor of Carolyn Pines.
-in appreciation of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.
-in memory of Al Ferrara.
-in honor of Lea Salem.

Jean Bass Maclachlan
-in honor of Artar Kaur Getaley.

Ronald Wofberg.

Marc Wernick
-in honor of Tamara Abrams and Carol Barnett's wedding.

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Stephanie Hannaford.

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Ellie Cohen and Miki Goralsky
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Allan Berenstein
-in honor of Melanie Kushnir's graduation.

Mark Mackler and Wendell Choo
-in honor of the birth of Quinn Elliot Klaiman, and the birthdays of Sidney, Liam and Johanna.

Roslyn Fuerman
-in memory of Eli Weinstein.

Rodeph Sholom Sisterhood
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Ann Bauman.

Karen Schiller
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.

Avraham Giannini
-in memory of Nathan Davidson.
-in honor of Ora Prochovnick.

Social Action Fund

Stephanie Godt and Ellen Novogrodsky
-in honor of Nicole Bloom.
-in honor of Judith Holiber.

Avidan Novogrodsky-Godt
-in honor of Chava Orli.
-in honor of Rami Harel Kripke-Ludwig.
-in honor of Lilah Rose Angel.
-in honor of Zoe and Asher Kapsack.

Donations made to the Chesir-Stein Music Fund to help subsidize the acquisition of our new baby grand piano

Manny Fishman and Leslie Kane.

Randy Weiss.

Alan Gordon.

Craig Shear.

David Gellman.

Phil Charney.

Avraham Giannini.

Ruth Rainero and Pieter de Haan.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold.

Tiela Chalmers.

Special thanks to those who have helped to underwrite this year's Congregational Advance:

Leslie Kane.

Marc Lipschutz.

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Jerome Goldstein.

Marc Lipschutz.

Brett Margolin, Joelle Polesky
and Levy.

Batya Kalis.

Marc Wernick.

Larry Wexler.

Steve Weiner.

Lisa Katz.

Israel Committee *continued from page 9*

changes now taking place in the position of women in Modern Orthodox Israeli society and raises questions about the future. We will view this 35-minute film and discuss the complex picture of a society in conflict and how change takes place within it. Felicia Epstein is an educator and the former director of development for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. Sponsored by the Israel Committee.

The Israel Committee's next meeting will be on July 18 (with a post-Tisha B'Av light meal) at 6:30 pm at Sha'ar Zahav. For further information about the Israel Committee, contact co-chairs Miki Goralsky (Goralsky@aol.com) and Steve Mazer (smazer@attglobal.net).

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July Anniversaries

- 1 Roslyn Fuerman and Fern Leaf
- 4 Dvora Honigstein and
Mary Sue Philp
- 8 Martin Spector and
Alan Samuels
- 10 Elizabeth Katz and
Lee Ann Thompson
- 12 Allan Gold and Alan Ferrara
- 25 Daniel Chesir and
Stephan Rowniak
Ron and Ruth Miguel
- 27 David Couch and
Nancy Halloran

August Anniversaries

- 7 Judith Wolfe and Jenny Hughes
- 12 Ali Cannon and Jessica Israel
Valerie Curtis and Yavn'ela
Oline
- 15 Jonathan Funk and John Arnold
- 17 Wayne Bender and
Kaz Kirishima
- 20 Marsha Blachman and
Amy Gentile
- 27 Steven Elman and Tom Holt

July

- 2 Arno Crowe Rosenfeld
Alan Foss
Raphael Lubeck-Weiner
- 3 Noah Chasnoff
Virginia Donohue
- 4 Robert Morelli
Emma Pines-Schwartz
Leslie Weiniger
Debra Yates
- 5 Grant Stern
- 6 Andrea Guerra
Roland Stern
- 7 Batya Kalis
- 8 Mary Parke
Hannah Pines-Schwartz
Ben Schalit
Laura Trupin
- 9 Steven Elman
Carolyn Pines
Kayla Strassfeld
- 10 Stefan Bain
Samuel Shelton
- 12 Naomi Zingman-Daniels
- 13 Janet Frankel
Judith Holiber
Mina Ostro Bluethenthal
Deborah Udin
Jonathan Zimman
- 14 Joan Shalit
- 15 Cheryl Price
- 16 Ann Aptaker
Riley Morgan
Lois Scott
Samuel Walters
- 18 Rocky Feldman
Nina Malakoff
Gabriel Press-Becker
- 19 Geraldine Barr
Michael Schaffer
- 20 Joshua Margulies
Mary Morgan
Maia Ross Trupin
Jeffrey Sherman
- 21 Emily Freeman
- 22 Ellen Litman
- 23 Ron Edelman
Nancy Meyer
Jacob Pannor-Watenpaugh
- 24 Michael Sarid
- 26 Benjamin Achtenberg
- 27 Laura Steele
- 28 Susan Schwartz
- 30 Prudence Carter
- 31 Eli Recht-Appel

August

- 1 Geoff Benjamin
Molly Hornby-Finch
- 2 Leah Halperin
Mark McCormick
Joseph Ramirez-Forcier
- 3 Mark Troy
- 4 Jonathan Funk
- 5 Ray Bernstein
Dara Goldfein
Ron Miguel
- 6 Nurit Robinson
- 7 Gail Ludwig
Alan Michels
Bob Nacamulli
- 8 Cheryl Sena
- 9 Allan Gold
Jessica Israel
Geoff Jaeger Skigen
- 11 Claudia Rosenbaum
- 12 Frank Yellin
- 13 Dean Elul-Goldfein
Jonah Levy
Lonnie Weiss
- 14 Alex Davido
- 15 Ellen Jacobs
- 16 Cheryl Bryan
William Jones
Maxwell Malakoff
Yavn'ela Oline
- 17 Myles Silton
- 18 Janet Klein
- 19 Dan Bellm
Paul Cohen
Elizabeth Schaffer
- 20 Stacey Shuster
Jonathan Zingman
- 24 Joshua Shuster-Lefkowitz
- 25 Noah Nacamulli
Donna Rae Palmer
- 26 Robert Cohen
Shira Zingman-Daniels
- 27 Michael Chertok
Kirsten Gustavson
Charlotte Halloran-Couch
- 28 Micah Barth-Rogers
- 29 Ann Daniels
Joshua Levy
- 30 Joe Hample
Frederick Hertz

Naches

To **Ruby Cymrot-Wu**, for being selected for the annual Wellesley College Brook Award for outstanding academic and extracurricular performance from Lick-Wilmerding High School.

To **Alison Scott and Alisa Weiner**, on the birth of their daughter, Jordan Eliana Scott-Weiner.

To **Erin Powers and Richard Gruschka**, on the naming of their son, Ryan.

To **Susan Leff and Brad Post**, on the occasion of their wedding.

To **Carol Barnett and Tamara Abrams**, on the occasion of their wedding.

To **Lisa DiGirolamo and Janet Klein**, on the birth of their son, Asa Eli DiGirolamo Klein.

To **Rebecca Doctors**, on her award of a Brown University Summer Research Fellowship to the HIV-TB Vaccine Research Laboratory.

To **Michael Sarid** who has accepted the chairmanship of the Keshet (Rainbow) Chavurah, the LGBT group at Congregation Beth Shalom in San Francisco. Michael plans to remain active here at CSZ as well.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg and/or flowers in recent weeks:

- 6/7 Oneg by **Paul Whitmore**, in honor of the Cherry Blossoms.
- 6/7 Flowers by **Rick Shelton**, in memory of Alan Toste.
- 6/14 Oneg by **Lisa Szer**, in memory of Chaim Szer.

Condolences

Jeffrey Davidson, on the death of his father, Nathan Davidson.

Jim Acerra and Tony Enriquez, on the death of their friend, Rene Oraschin.

Gerry Rosenstein, on the death of his friend, Ernie Lobet.

Richard Meyerson, on the death of his father, Stanley Meyerson.

Melanie Kushnir, on the death of her friend, Warner Harrison.

Jay Baskin, on the death of his aunt, Esther Hoffman.